



Paul J. Diodati
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 626.1520
Fax (617) 626.1509



NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Under the provisions of M.G.L. Ch 30A ss. 3 and pursuant to the authority found in M.G.L. Ch. 130 ss. 17A, 80 and 104, Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has established a public comment period on a recently enacted emergency actions affecting the northern shrimp fishery (322 CMR 5.00).

On January 9, 2004 *Marine Fisheries* enacted an emergency regulation to create a 40-day season for the directed northern shrimp fishery from January 19, 2004 through March 12, 2004, excluding Saturdays and Sundays and prohibiting the use of certain gear. Below are the regulations *Marine Fisheries* proposes enacting on a permanent basis:

- 1) a 40-day northern shrimp season from January 19, 2004 through March 12, 2004; and
- 2) prohibitions on
 - a) any permitted vessel fishing, having on board, landing, transporting or possessing northern shrimp except during the approved commercial season of January 19, 2004 through March 12, 2004; or
 - b) any dealer purchasing, processing, or possessing northern shrimp prior to January 19, 2004 and after March 17, 2004. Processing or storing shrimp prior to January 19, 2004 and after March 17, 2004 is lawful with written authorization of the Director; and
 - c) culling, grading, separating, or shaking of shrimp aboard any vessel except by implements operated solely by hand. It is illegal to possess aboard any vessel any powered mechanical device used to cull, grade, separate, or shake shrimp.

Contact DMF for draft regulations and further details. Written comments may be received by e-mail, (Melanie.griffin@state.ma.us), fax (617.626.1509), or mail (DMF; 251 Causeway St., Suite 400; Boston, MA 02114) and will be accepted until 5PM on Friday, February 20, 2004.

For further information please visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.